

# Welcome to Del Dios Highlands County Preserve

Del Dios Highlands County Preserve is 460 acres of open space parkland acquired as part of the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program. The County partnered with the Escondido Creek Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority to acquire and restore this parkland.

The preserve consists of coastal sage scrub and mixed chaparral habitats. A variety of wildlife makes their home here. Reptiles, mammals, and birds find food and shelter in the preserve. Now preserved in perpetuity, these hilltops are living monuments to the natural beauty of San Diego County.

The Del Dios Highlands Trail straddles the San Dieguito and Escondido Creek watersheds and provides a passive trail connection joining the communities of Del Dios and Harmony Grove. The trail is open for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Halfway up the trail from the Del Dios Highway staging area, visitors can enjoy an inspiring view of Lake Hodges to the southeast. Farther up the trail, the Pacific Ocean can be seen on a clear day. The trail connects with the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve trail system managed by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

The preserve is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to half an hour before sunset. For public safety and protection of the resources, the preserve will not open in the event of heavy rain.

## Rules and Regulations

- Accidents:** The County of San Diego shall not be responsible for loss or accidents.
- Unauthorized Motor Vehicles:** The unauthorized operation of motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Littering:** Is prohibited.
- Defacement Prohibited:** No person shall remove, deface, or destroy trail markers, monuments, fences, trees, camp or picnic structures, or other preserve facilities.
- Preservation of trail features:** All wildlife, plant, and geologic features are protected and are not to be damaged or removed. All historical artifacts are to be left in place.
- No Hunting:** No person shall use, transport, carry, fire, or discharge any firearms, air guns, archery device, slingshot, fireworks, or explosive device of any kind in a preserve.
- Alcoholic Beverages:** Alcoholic beverages with more than 20% alcohol by volume are not permitted.
- Fire hazards and smoking:** No smoking. Campfires are prohibited. Stoves allowed only in primitive group camping area.

## Reservations and Information

For online reservation information, visit us at [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

Toll Free: 877-565-3600

Local: 858-565-3600

